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## Business

Tuesday May 5, 2009

### First carbon capture permit in W.Va. issued

by [George Hohmann](#)  
Daily Mail Business Editor

NEW HAVEN, W.Va.--Gov. Joe Manchin announced the state Department of Environmental Protection has issued the first carbon dioxide sequestration permit in state history.

The permit was issued Monday for Appalachian Power Co.'s Mountaineer Plant at New Haven, Mason County.

The utility and its corporate parent, American Electric Power, are building a \$70 million carbon sequestration pilot project designed to capture a slipstream of carbon dioxide off the plant's exhaust and bury it underground.

The underground injection control permit for geologic carbon dioxide storage allows the Mountaineer Plant to capture and inject up to 165,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year over a four- to five-year period.

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Details of the state's permit enforcement, such as how the Department of Environmental

Protection will monitor the liquefied carbon dioxide that is pumped underground to make sure it doesn't migrate off-site, was not immediately known. Legislation providing the legal and regulatory framework for permitting such projects was approved by the Legislature earlier this year.

West Virginia's permit comes as discussion of the control of carbon emissions heats up in Congress. Carbon sequestration is seen by many as the most promising path forward to allow companies to continue to burn coal without greatly increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Manchin said in a prepared statement, "I've always said that we need to discover modern and more environmentally friendly ways to use the tremendous resource we have in West Virginia coal. That technology is here, today, and we are working hard to find even more innovative energy solutions that create jobs for West Virginians, while also protecting our environment.

"I welcome this partnership with AEP and commend them for their commitment to this carbon capture technology, because it will not only benefit our state with jobs and revenue, it will also benefit our nation in making clean coal a reality."

Michael Morris, AEP's chairman, president and chief executive officer, said in a prepared statement, "This permit represents an important milestone in our plan to begin operating the carbon capture and storage system at Mountaineer in September.

"The project is critical to the nation's goal of addressing greenhouse gas emissions, to AEP's compliance with future carbon constraints and to coal maintaining its important role in the nation's energy mix. When this unit begins operation, West Virginia will take center stage in the battle against climate change."

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To 999432, it's ok Governor Joe approved it so it is bound to safe.

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A reminder of what can possibly go wrong in carbon capture and sequestration schemes is the Lake Nyos tragedy that occurred in Cameroon back in August 21, 1986. A limnic eruption of the crater-lake of Lake Nyos resulted in the sudden release of a large cloud of carbon dioxide gas. The incident caused the suffocation of 1,700 people inhabiting on several nearby villages' downhill from the lake and also resulted in the death of 3,500 head of cattle and other livestock. Though not completely unprecedented, it was the first known large-scale asphyxiation caused by a natural event.

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